

National Security Education Act

The International Flagship Language Initiative (IFLI)

The bill would authorize \$12 million for a federally funded program providing grants to US universities and colleges to establish high quality, intensive in-country language study programs in a broad range of countries around the world. Institutional grants of up to \$400,000 per language will be provided to establish new programs. The initial target will be the languages identified by the government-wide needs assessment conducted regularly by the National Security Education Program (NSEP). The NSEP, which already oversees the National Flagship Language Initiative (NFLI), will also administer the program. The intent of IFLI is to complement the work of the NFLI. The NSEP will be accountable for the program's overall results and will report directly to Congress.

Science and Technology Advanced Foreign Language Grants

The bill authorizes \$15 million in grants to institutions of higher education to establish programs that encourage students to develop foreign language proficiency as well as science and technological knowledge. Eligible institutions will develop programs in which students take courses in science, math and technology taught in a foreign language. Funds will also support immersion programs for students to take science and math courses in a non-English speaking country.

Loan Forgiveness For Undergraduate Students in Foreign Languages Who Become Teachers or Federal Employees

The bill would authorize the Secretary of Education to assume the obligation to repay a total of not more than \$10,000 of the principal and interest for a student borrower who has obtained an undergraduate critical need foreign language. To qualify the recipient must be employed in a full-time position in an elementary or secondary school as a teacher of one the aforementioned subjects or in an agency of the United States Government.

Encouraging Early Foreign Language Studies

The bill authorizes \$48 million to establish grants for foreign language partnerships between local school districts and foreign language departments at institutions of higher education. Also eligible to participate in the partnerships would be state education agencies, an education or teacher training department of institutions of higher education, a business, a non-profit organization, heritage or community centers for language study, or a Language Resource Center. Priority would be given to partnerships that include a high-need local educational agency and to partnerships that emphasize the teaching of less-commonly taught languages.

National Study of Foreign Language Heritage Communities and Federal Marketing Campaign

Conduct national study to identify heritage communities with native speakers of critical foreign languages and make them targets of a federal marketing campaign encouraging students to pursue degrees in those languages. Members of heritage communities are a better and less expensive educational investment than non-heritage speakers with no previous language experience. Unfortunately, many heritage communities view knowledge of a language other than English as a problem to be overcome. A federal marketing campaign should educate heritage language speakers about the educational and professional opportunities that their language skills may afford them.